

Attorney Docket No.: 0160112
Application Serial No.: 10/799,533

REMARKS

This is in response to the *Non-Final* Office Action of October 18, 2007, where the Examiner has rejected claims 1-11, 13, 15, 17-27, 29, 31, 33-36, 39-43, 46, 48, 49 and 51-56. By the present amendment, applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-11, 13, 15, 17, 18, 20-22, 24-27, 29, 31, 33-36 and 40-43. After the present amendment, claims 1-11, 13, 15, 17-27, 29, 31, 33-36, 39-43, 46, 48, 49 and 51-56 remain pending in the present application. An early allowance of outstanding claims 1-11, 13, 15, 17-27, 29, 31, 33-36, 39-43, 46, 48, 49 and 51-56 in view of the following remarks is requested.

A. Rejection of Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13, 15, 17-21, 23-27, 29, 31, 33-36, 39-43, 46, 48, 51, 53 and 55 under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-11, 13, 15, 17-21, 23-27, 29, 31, 33-36, 39-43, 46, 48, 51, 53 and 55, under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bergstrom, et al. (USPN 5,809,459) ("Bergstrom") in view of Kaajas, et al. (PGPUB 2004/0138874) ("Kaajas"), and further in view of Zinser, Jr. et al. (USPN 6,138,092) ("Zinser").

By the present amendment, applicant has amended claim 1 of the present application to recite "obtaining an input wideband speech signal including a background noise; decomposing said input wideband speech signal into a voiced portion and a noisy portion using an adaptive separation component having a filter cut-off frequency, wherein said voiced portion is a portion of said input wideband speech signal for waveform matching and said noisy portion is a portion of said input wideband speech signal not for waveform matching, and wherein said filter cut-off frequency is above 4 kHz."

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is patentably distinguishable

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over the cited references, solely or in combination. First, applicant has amended claim 1 to clarify that “background noise” in the speech signal is different that the “noisy portion” of the speech signal. As further stated in claim 2, as amended, the background noise can be removed from the input wideband speech signal before decomposing the input wideband speech signal into the voiced portion and the noisy portion. Second, claim 1 has been amended to specifically recite that method of claim 1 is operated on an input wideband speech signal. As explained in the present patent application, the “noisy portion” is a result of extending the speech signal above the narrowband. Even more, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the filter cut-off frequency is above 4 kHz, in order to further clarify the invention of method of claim 1, which operates on an input wideband speech signal. Furthermore, claim 1, as amended, also defines that the voiced portion is a portion of the input wideband speech signal for waveform matching and the noisy portion is a portion of the input wideband speech signal not for waveform matching.

Applicant respectfully submits that Bergstrom, Kaajas and Zinser fail to disclose, teach or suggest the above-recited elements of claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is patentably distinguishable over the cited references, and should be allowed. Further, claims 1-5, 7-11, 13, 15 and 48 depend from claim 1, and should be allowed at least for the same reasons stated above. Also, independent claims 17, 33 and 40, as amended, include limitations similar to those of claim 1, as amended, and should be allowed for similar reasons. Claims 18-21, 23-27, 29, 31, 34-36, 39, 41-43, 46, 51, 53 and 55 depend from claims 17, 33 and 40, as amended, and should also be allowed.

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B. Rejection of Claims 6 and 22 under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 6 and 22, under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bergstrom in view of Kaajas, and further in view of Gigi (USPN 6,453,283) (“Gigi”).

It is respectfully submitted that, as explained above, dependent claims 6 and 22 should also be allowed at least for the reasons stated above in conjunction with patentability of the independent claims.

C. Rejection of Claims 49, 52, 54 and 56 under 35 USC § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 49, 52, 54 and 56, under 35 USC § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Bergstrom in view of Kaajas and Kingsbury, et al. (USPN 6,308,155) (“Kingsbury”), and further in view of Li, et al. (PGPUB 2007/0110042) (“Li”).

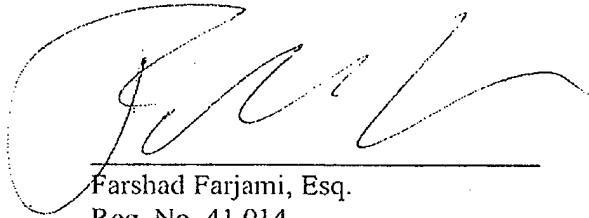
It is respectfully submitted that, as explained above, dependent claims 49, 52, 54 and 56 should also be allowed at least for the reasons stated above in conjunction with patentability of the independent claims.

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D. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing reasons, an early Notice of Allowance directed to all claims 1-11, 13, 15, 17-27, 29, 31, 33-36, 39-43, 46, 48, 49 and 51-56 pending in the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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